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Cell Phone and Personal Electronic Device Policy

The Piedmont City School District (PCSD) has created this policy to follow the FOCUS Act and to maintain a focused, safe, and productive learning environment. The purpose of this policy is to reduce distractions, prevent cheating, and ensure that students can learn without interruptions.

General Guidelines

- Students cannot use cell phones, smartwatches, tablets, gaming devices, headphones, earbuds, or any other personal electronic devices during class, unless allowed by a teacher or administrator.
- All devices should be turned off and stored in lockers, vehicles, backpacks, or other designated areas. Students are not allowed to carry them on their person.

Exceptions:

- 1. If it's stated in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP), Section 504 Plan, or Individualized Health Plan.
- 2. In emergencies that affect the safety or life of the student or others.

Discipline for Violating the Policy

1st Offense: The device will be confiscated, a discipline report will be written, and the device will be returned at the end of the school day.

2nd Offense: The device will be confiscated, a discipline report will be written, and the device must be picked up by a parent or guardian.

3rd Offense: The device will be confiscated, a discipline report will be written, the device must be picked up by a parent or guardian, and the student will receive 1 day of In-School Suspension (ISS).

4th Offense: The device will be confiscated, a discipline report will be written, the device must be picked up by a parent or guardian, and the student will receive 3 days of ISS.

5th Offense: The device will be confiscated, a discipline report will be written, the device must be picked up by a parent or guardian, and the student will receive 5 days of ISS.

Subsequent Offenses: If the student continues to violate the policy, there may be a hearing for alternative placement.

Refusal to Hand Over Device

If a student refuses to give a device to a staff member when asked, this will be considered defiant behavior. The student will face disciplinary action according to the PCSD Code of Student Conduct.

Responsibility and Parent Support

- Parents/guardians should help monitor their child's use of devices and support the school's policy.
- Students should understand the rules and consequences of not following them.
- Devices are brought to school at the student's own risk, and the school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged items.